Abstract

Most Iraqi cities face number of problems and challenges, which include in general poor distribution of public services and in particular educational and health services. These problems concentrate in cities center, which are non-observed by planning standards in the distribution, so that it can't suit frequent population growth, urbanization and any other needs.

This study focuses on urban and spatial planning of education and health services in Najaf Center, using GIS techniques. The main goal is analyze actual spatial distribution of education and health services, and their efficiency and relevance to the standards of urban planning that meet needs of Najaf Center. Also, the study proposes an efficient spatial distribution for education and health services in the area. This may help decision makers to take appropriate steps to develop services.

In the study, the methodology of the descriptive and analytical approach is followed, depending on census results done by the Central Bureau of Statistics and Information Technology in 1997, and field surveys results of the current study. The analysis and evaluation of actual spatial distribution of educational and health services are compared with planning standards of educational and health services, which were classified by Housing Scheme, that have been prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Construction in 1982.
It is found that there is obvious deficiency in size and distribution of the service provided to city residents. This deficiency does not only result in lack of availability, but also result in poor planning vision, and absence of future plans that take into account an increase in city's population size either due to migration or natural increase.

Keywords: Educational services. Health services. Planning standards. Najaf Center